

~~Amend claims 7 and 15 as follows:~~

A2
7. (amended) An isolated DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising a hek-L polypeptide that binds hek, and an Fc polypeptide, wherein said hek-L comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 1-202 of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 1-160 of SEQ ID NO:4.

A3
15. (amended) A process for preparing a fusion protein, comprising culturing a host cell transformed with a vector according to claim 11 under conditions promoting expression of said fusion protein, and recovering said fusion protein from the culture.

Add new claims 28-39, as follows:

--28. A method for binding hek, comprising contacting a hek polypeptide with a hek ligand (hek-L) polypeptide, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2 in mature form;
 - b) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2;
 - c) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4 in mature form; and
 - d) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4;
- wherein said fragment binds hek.

29. A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

30. A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4.

31. A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek polypeptide, or said hek-L polypeptide, or both, is expressed on a cell.

32. A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L is in the form of an oligomer comprising at least two of said hek-L polypeptides.

Amend.

33. A method according to claim 28, wherein said hek-L is attached to a diagnostic or therapeutic agent.

34. A method for binding elk, comprising contacting an elk polypeptide with a hek-L polypeptide, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2 in mature form;
- b) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2;
- c) the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4 in mature form; and
- d) a fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4;

wherein said fragment binds hek.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

36. A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L polypeptide is a purified soluble fragment of the hek-L protein of SEQ ID NO:4.

37. A method according to claim 34, wherein said elk polypeptide, or said hek-L polypeptide, or both, is expressed on a cell.

38. A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L is in the form of an oligomer comprising at least two of said hek-L polypeptides.

39. A method according to claim 34, wherein said hek-L is attached to a diagnostic or therapeutic agent.--

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted to place the application in better condition for examination, and to present claims directed to particular embodiments of the invention. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.

The amendments to page one of the specification are made to update information pertaining to related applications.